

April 16, 1975

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I think that all of us should stand for a moment of silent prayer and all should speak very quickly and to the point that we empathize with the problems of the people in that area. I think we also recognize that this is a matter to be handled by the United States Government and the United States President, in its proper place. Therefore, I support Senator Chambers' motion to indefinitely postpone the resolution.

PRESIDENT: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: I'd like to respond to Senator Syas' comment. I did not say that we were not authorized to be in there. The point I was trying to make, and I made reference to the Gulf of Tonken Resolution, is that was a very vague and open ended statement on which the President could act. That what we have in here is a similar sort of thing indicating that the Congress should act favorably upon the President's plans and requests, again, seems very similar to the Gulf and Tonken Resolution. We say to the Congress, whatever President Ford wants to do, let him do. It was that same grant of authority that Congress gave to President Johnson, and that's what got us into the Vietnam mess before. I don't think we should encourage a repeat of the Gulf of Tonken Resolution. I did not say we were not authorized to be in there, but I think the authorization was way too broad and it would be a mistake to go through the something all over again.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, the suggestion was made by Senator Chambers, who got out it out of a newspaper, or a magazine, that on these orphan airlift, this orphan airlift, that there were a number of children. In fact, if you would believe Senator Chambers, I'm sure he would have you believe that most of the children were children of rich people who somehow were put on these airplanes so they could escape to the United States. Now, I personally brought back several hundred of these children. I absolutely, unequivocally know that on one load of three hundred and six there were four of the type of children he is describing. Now, if you want to describe them as children of rich people, that's fine. I'll tell you about one little boy who went to Kansas. It happened his mother married an American, was able to leave Vietnam, the Vietnamese government, however, would not allow the little boy to leave because he was a Vietnamese citizen. That was one of the children. The three others could be classified as children of families, over here in the United States, who had managed to get out of Vietnam. That represents a little less than one percent. If Senator Chambers knows of any other humanitarian program carried on in this world or the communist world that has that low a percentage of impropriety, then I would like to hear about it. The question also comes up on the orphans as to whether these children should have ever even come out of Vietnam. That they would be just as well in Vietnam if they had been left there. Well, a number of them were left there. They were left in Cameron, in DaNang, and now most of them are either dead or who knows what. When the communists did take over, there was nobody to take care of them. Most of them are infants, unable to take care of themselves. They were true orphans in the true sense of the word, Senator Chambers. They were brought here to families that have applied through specific adoption agencies, Friends of the Children of Vietnam, Friends for All Children, Catholic Relief Service, International Relief Service.